

In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21, as follows:

Figures 1-4 and 6-15 show a first tire assembly 10, made in accordance with the present invention. The tire assembly 10 includes a tire 12, which is mounted on a rim 14, which, in turn, is mounted on a hub 16. In this preferred embodiment, the tire 12 is a standard tire, and the rim 14 is a standard safety rim. The safety rim 14 includes a one-piece ring having a generally U-shaped cross-section and defining left and right recesses 32 which receive the beads or cords 36 of the tire edges.

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 14, before the paragraph that begins on line 4:

Looking at Figure 17, it can be seen that each of the individual balls 18 is independent of the tire and rim and is free to shift in the circumferential direction relative to the tire and rim, so that, if one ball is punctured and deflates, the remaining balls are free to shift circumferentially and redistribute themselves to substantially fill the space that was created by the deflated ball, with the result being that the vehicle continues to be well-supported, and the tire does not go flat. Even if a rim lock 22 is used, as shown in Figures 3 and 5, the individual balls 18 are still free to shift circumferentially relative to the hub and tire to redistribute themselves in order to provide continued support in the event that a ball 18 goes flat.